

Amended claims

1. A concentrated low-viscosity aqueous dispersion for the softening of textiles and paper containing

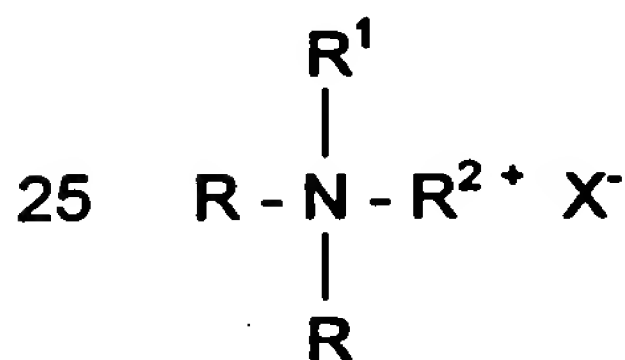
- a) a nonionic softener component selected from monoesters or diesters of glycerol with C₈₋₂₂ fatty acids and mixtures thereof,
- b) a polyol compound,
- c) cationic and nonionic emulsifiers,
- d) 70 to 90% by weight water and optionally other auxiliaries and additives, the ratio by weight of component a) to component b) being from 2.5:1 to 1:2.5,

characterized in that cationic emulsifiers are present in quantities of 0.5 to 3.0% by weight.

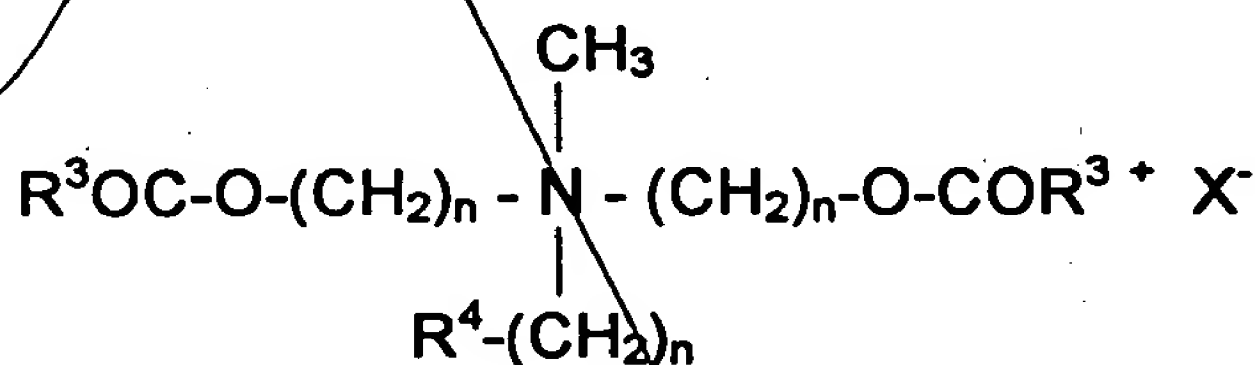
2. A dispersion as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that it has a Brookfield viscosity, as measured at 20°C (spindle 1, 20 r.p.m.), in the range from 1 to 100 mPa·s and preferably in the range from 1 to 50 mPa·s.

3. A dispersion as claimed in claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the polyol compound is selected from glycerol, diethylene glycol, polyethylene glycol and 1,2-propylene glycol or mixtures thereof.

4. A dispersion as claimed in any of claims 1 to 3, characterized in that the cationic emulsifiers used are quaternary ammonium compounds corresponding to formulae (I) and (II):



(I)



(II)

in which R is an acyclic alkyl group containing 12 to 24 carbon atoms, R¹ is a saturated C₁₋₄ alkyl or hydroxyalkyl group, R² has the same meaning as

R or R¹ and COR³ stands for an aliphatic acyl group containing 12 to 22 carbon atoms and 0, 1, 2 or 3 double bonds and R⁴ is hydrogen or OH, n has a value of 1, 2 or 3 and X is a halide, methosulfate, methophosphate or phosphate ion.

- 5 5. A dispersion as claimed in any of claims 1 to 4, characterized in that the nonionic emulsifiers present are alkoxyated fatty acids containing 8 to 22 carbon atoms, alkoxyated fatty acid esters of fatty acids containing 8 to 22 carbon atoms with alcohols containing 1 to 10 carbon atoms and/or alkoxyated fatty alcohols containing 8 to 22 carbon atoms, the alkoxyated
10 compounds having HLB values of 3 to 20.
6. A dispersion as claimed in any of claims 1 to 5, characterized in that the nonionic softener component a) is present in quantities of 1 to 14% by weight and preferably in quantities of 5 to 10% by weight.
7. A dispersion as claimed in any of claims 1 to 6, characterized in that
15 the nonionic emulsifier is present in quantities of 0.1 to 3.0% by weight.
8. A dispersion as claimed in any of claims 1 to 7, characterized in that a mixture of glycerol and polyethylene glycol is present as component b).
9. A dispersion as claimed in claim 8, characterized in that the ratio by weight of glycerol to polyethylene glycol is between 10:1 and 6:1.
- 20 10. A process for the production of the dispersions claimed in claim 1, characterized in that components a) to c) and the auxiliaries present, if any, are dispersed in water and the crude dispersion obtained is subsequently homogenized under pressures of 10 to 600 bar in a high-pressure homogenizer.
- 25 11. A process as claimed in claim 10, characterized in that the crude dispersion is homogenized under pressures of 25 to 250 bar.
12. The use of the dispersions claimed in claim 1 for the softening of paper.
13. The use of the dispersions claimed in claim 1 for the softening of
30 textile piece goods.

~~14. The use of the dispersions claimed in claim 1 as fabric softeners.~~

add
a₁
add
a₂

14. The use of the dispersions claimed in claim 1 as fabric softeners.